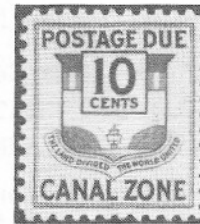




# The Canal Zone Philatelist



Vol. 29, No. 3

Third Quarter, 1993

Whole No. 108

## President's Report

Richard D. Bates, Jr.

P.O. Box 40583, Palisades Station  
Washington, DC 20016

This report is about volunteers. It is not only about volunteers in the sense that I have discussed before, namely the need for volunteers to handle jobs the Study Group needs done. It is also about the nature of an organization that depends entirely on volunteers to function effectively. The second part of this report discusses some of the problems raised by our being an all-volunteer organization.

The CZSG has been fortunate over the years that many have volunteered their time and expertise, and the officers and other members are thankful that we have gotten a good response when we ask for volunteers. The Study Group functions best if there is a core of experienced workers dedicated to stabilizing it and to making it run smoothly. John Smith, our Secretary, is a prime example among current officers of someone who keeps the CZSG on track, just as Dick Salz as President or Vice-President had been for more than two decades. But just as it is essential that there be a core of experienced officers willing to ensure the success of the Study Group, it is also extremely important to have new ideas and approaches provided by having new people involved in running the organization. And it is especially important that younger, enthusiastic, and energetic members have

(Continued on page 20)

## Meeting Notice

At SESCAL '93, a regional meeting of the CZSG will be held at the LAX Hyatt Hotel, Century and Sepulveda Blvds., Los Angeles, California, on Sunday, October 10, 1993 at 2:00 p.m. There will also be a meeting of COPAPHIL, which may be of interest to our members, at 3:00 p.m. Details from David J. Leeds, 310-472-0282.

## Stationery Varieties

by David J. Leeds

A group of postal stationery items either not previously reported or not illustrated is featured. It is our intention to precede an update of the postal stationery catalog by showing these items in the CZP.

The first two postal cards will both be listed "double surcharge/overprint, one inverted lower left". After a lapse of almost nine decades, these previously unreported items are

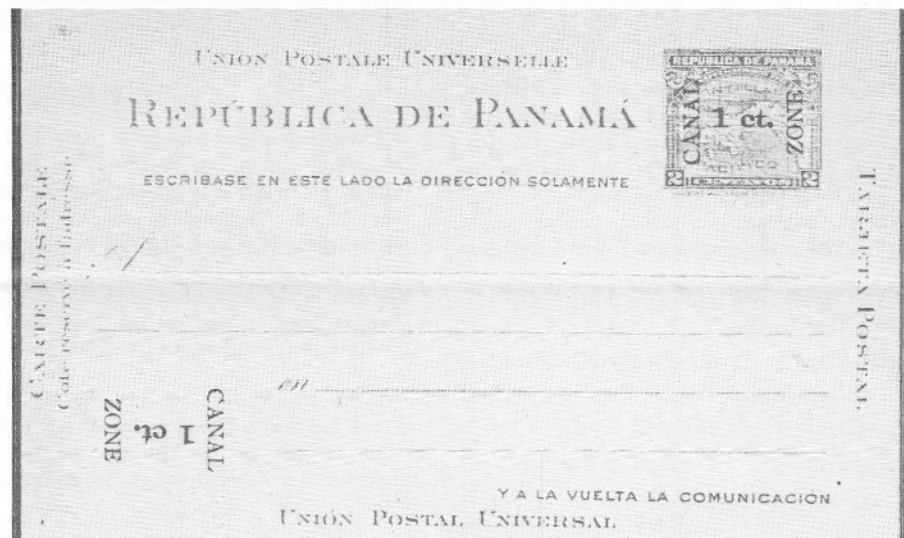


Fig. 1. UX1d Double, One Inverted

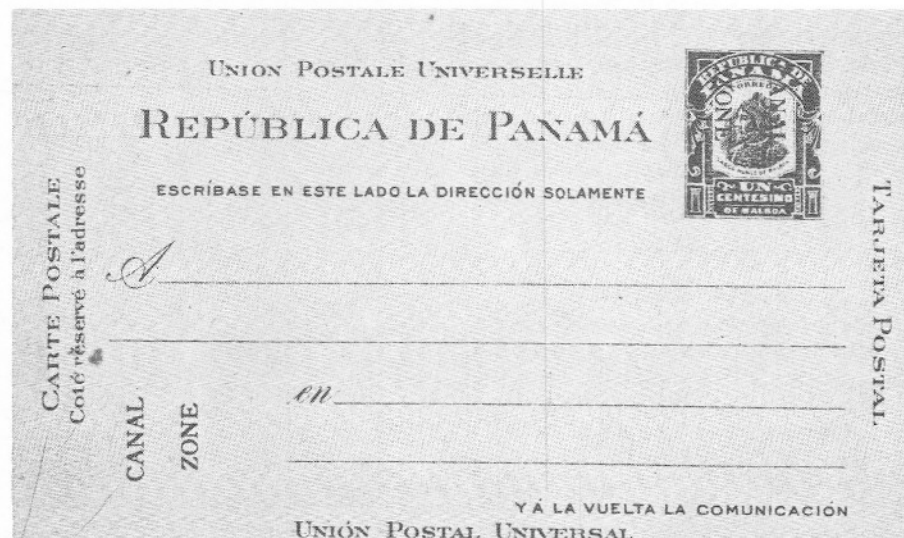


Fig. 2. UX2 Double, One Inverted.

(Continued on page 19)



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Canal Zone Study Group

## Nominating Committee Report

Elections for officers and directors of The Canal Zone Study Group for the two years beginning January 1994 will be held later this fall. In accordance with Article 6, Section 2 of our bylaws, the nominating committee has prepared a slate of candidates. Ballots will be distributed to members along with dues notices.

Note that four candidates are proposed to fill three director slots. Write-in votes are accepted.

The following are nominated for the 1994-1995 term:

President: Dr. Richard D. Bates, Jr.  
Vice President: James W. Crumpacker  
Secretary: John C. Smith  
Treasurer: Richard F. Larkin  
Board of Directors (3):  
LCDR Paul F. Ammons  
Thomas Brougham  
George R. Campbell  
Gary B. Weiss, M.D.

I would like to thank Robert Karrer and David Leeds, the other members of the nominating committee. Considerable effort was spent by these gentlemen in working on the selections for nomination.

Michael Demski, Chair  
Nominating Committee

## Late Usage

This post-demonitization use of an overprinted Panama stamp shows proper handling by post office personnel. Note that the date is October 1925, more than a year late. The stamp has blue pencil around it indicating that it is not valid for postage, and the cover has the circle "T" (Ent. PD-6a). The correct double rate was collected with two of the only printing of the 2¢ J19 as if the letter were unpaid.

P.J. Kravitz



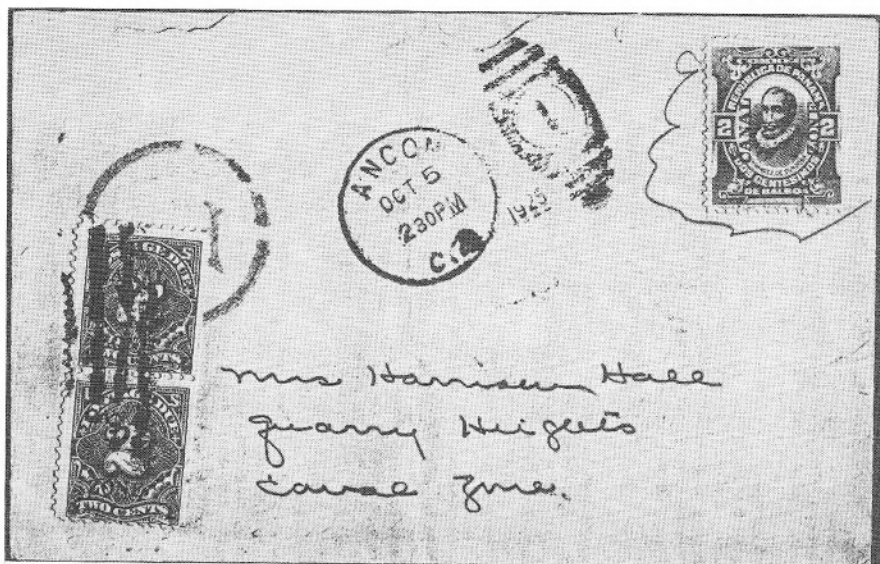
## CZ #4-8 Printer's Initials

A study is under way by Joseph M. Napp to assign "at press" dates from initials found on the left selvege of CZ #4-8. These marginal markings were punched into the plate when it was installed in the press by the pressman. The printer's initials can be correlated with shipment dates of the stamps used by the Canal Zone and the Philippines (overprinted) during this period.

We would appreciate xeroxes for study of any examples from our members' collections. Access to the illustrations shown here was provided through the courtesy of

Harry Hagendorf of the Columbian Stamp Company. However, your anonymity can be preserved if you wish. Xeroxes are all that we require, similar to the examples shown. Even a blank margin is of interest since it indicates an early press run.

Results of the study relating to the Canal Zone will be published in the CZP; broader aspects related to the Philippines are slated for publication in *Possessions*. Please send xeroxes to Joseph M. Napp, 5 Knollwood Drive, West Orange, NJ 07052-2405, or to the Editor.



Unrecognized Franking.



## Third Series Committee Reactivated

The difficulty of identifying many Third Series stamps by stage and/or Panama printing is frustrating. As examples, today most collectors cannot consistently identify CZSG Nos. 12.B, 12.C, and 12.D, and cannot fully identify most singles and blocks of CZSG Nos. 9.A, 9.B, 9.C, and 9.D. The CZSG's book *Canal Zone Stamps* is an invaluable aid in identifying these stamps. However, additional research has revealed more unpublished detail about them, and future research will disclose yet even more detail, thus enabling collectors to do a much better and easier job fully identifying these stamps. Accordingly, Geoffrey Brewster has volunteered to chair this committee, and President Richard Bates has announced the appointment of Brewster as Chair, Third Series Committee. Brewster believes he is in a position to accomplish much of this research and hopes eventually to publish the data in the *CZP*. Members interested in working with Brewster or who have material for study or which they wish to bring to his attention are encouraged to contact him at 141 Lyford Drive, Tiburon, Calif. 94920, or in care of the Editor.

## Stationery Varieties

(Continued from page 17)

shown. The mint UX1d (UPSS 2), Fig. 1, sent in by Irwin Gibbs, is the 13 mm variety of the first CZ postal card, issued about May 1907. Note that the second overprint is inverted and in the lower left corner. This is a normal consequence of the card having been placed in the press upside down. The 1982 APS Certificate, signed by DeVoss and Savarese, failed to note that the surcharge was the scarcer 13 mm "CANAL" rather than the usual 15 mm "CANAL". No other copy has been noted, so the card may be unique.

Fig. 2 is a similar kind of error, "double overprint, one inverted lower left", of UX2 (UPSS 9), issued in 1912. The card was obtained several years ago, at auction, and is in the Editor's collection. A 1986 APS Certificate correctly describes the card. It also may be unique.

U10 Penalty Diagonal: In 1962 the CZPS applied "Penalty" overprints to a number of obsolete postal stationery items, including the 1¢ U10 (UPSS 21p). The quality of the Panama Canal Press overprinting was generally good, except for the illustrated example, Fig. 3, of a diagonal overprint on the long version of the 1¢ envelope. This is the only example known to the Editor. Thanks to R.J. Karrer for submitting this interesting item.

SAMPLE: The "SAMPLE" handstamps on the 1924 locally produced typeset/typographed stationery reported in the UPSS' *The Postal Stationery of the Canal Zone* are both from the Editor's collection. The 79 x 13.5 mm handstamp is in black

on the 2¢ envelope U9 (UPSS 12) Fig. 4, and in dark magenta on the 1¢ postal card UX8 (UPSS S15), Fig. 5. The postal card has the same marking on the reverse, struck twice.



Fig. 3. U10 Diagonal Penalty Overprint.



Fig. 4. U9 SAMPLE.

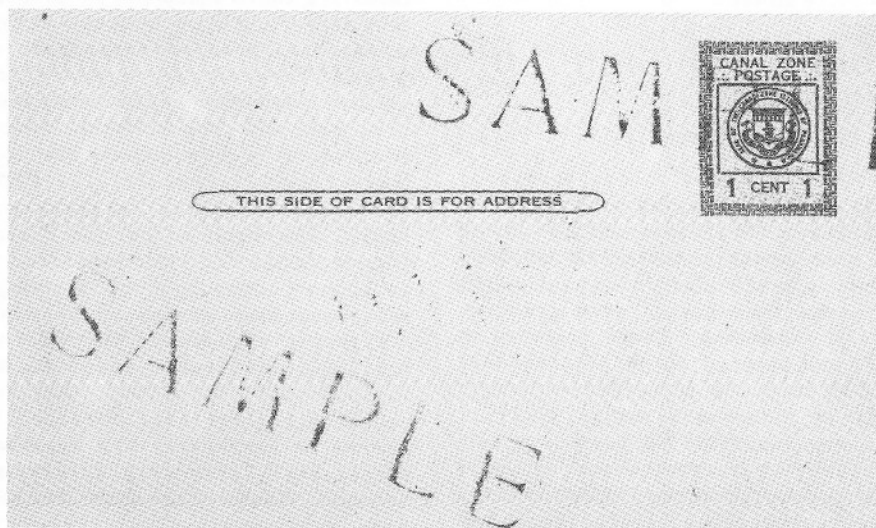


Fig. 5. UX8 SAMPLE.



## President's Report

(Continued from page 17)

the chance to play a role in contributing to the present and planning the future. For that reason the Nominating Committee was charged to try to recruit some new faces for officers, and I am pleased they have done so with success.

Because there are many members who would like to play a role yet are not sure how they can contribute, I am planning to reactivate the committees that were first formed many years ago. These committees dealt with specific areas of interest to Canal Zone philately. Several members have suggested that the committee approach is a way to generate new leadership from among less involved, particularly younger, members.

The Standing Committees operative in 1972 (CZP 23:9) were:

1. Publications
2. Catalog Listing
3. Scott Nos. 9-20
4. Counterfeits
5. Overprinted U.S.
6. Postal Stationery
7. Permanent Designs
8. Publicity
9. Membership
10. Postal Markings

In 1981 the Standing Committee approach (CZP 58:6) was jump started again with new or reactivated committees:

1. Air Mail
2. Booklet Pane
3. Censor Markings
4. First Day Covers, to #104
5. First Day Covers, from #105
6. First Flight
7. Officials
8. Overprinted U.S.
9. Plate Initials
10. Picture Post Cards
11. Postal History
12. Postal Markings
13. Postal Stationery
14. Revenues

My observation is that progress in the areas covered by these committees during the past decade or more has depended primarily on the efforts of one individual rather than from the Committee structure. Several short reports have appeared in CZP, and some of our handbooks have evolved from the committee structure, either by chance or by design. The Publications Committee has been extremely valuable in advising me as President about what we should publish. The ability to try to get more members involved in as many ways as possible prompts me to propose reappointing committees and their chairs

at this time. I would also suggest several new committees, including one on Awards, another on Prominent Names of the Past, and one on National Meetings. At this time I ask each member to consider heading or participating in at least one of these committees and to let me know of your wishes. If there is an area of interest to you that is not covered, do not be bashful. Let me know what you would like to do for Canal Zone philately and for the CZSG. You may get a letter from me asking for your help anyway. But I need to warn you that I will try to define an objective for each committee, and I will be looking to see what each committee accomplishes.

The other half of this report deals with the second side of volunteerism. Organizations like ours depend on volunteers for their existence. But having an organization run by volunteers has both benefits and drawbacks. By its very nature, such an organization cannot be expected to respond the way companies with paid employees do. Our organization has always been an all-volunteer outfit. And it will, in all likelihood, remain so. Unlike employees, one cannot threaten to fire our volunteers, nor to cut their pay in half. One can say they will be replaced, but finding suitable replacements is not always easy.

The nature of our volunteers has changed in recent years, and the demands of some members on what they expect our volunteer officers to do has escalated. These shifts necessitate a change in our expectations concerning the efforts of volunteers. If we do not approach this problem pragmatically, no one in the future will be willing to take on the job of being an officer, or running a Mail Sale, or doing one of the countless other thankless jobs that need a conscientious hand.

Several difficult situations have arisen during the past two years that have stretched the willingness and ability of volunteers to continue to function on behalf of the CZSG. Nearly all of these have involved complaints between two dealers (both are CZSG members) or groups of collectors acting like dealers over business transactions. In several cases, these complaints have escalated to series of charges and countercharges, and have culminated in threats and even potential lawsuits. Involvement in these matters has clearly become much larger that the CZSG's interest in reconciling the problem can justify. The result is that the Board of Directors of the CZSG has voted that it will no longer become involved in trying to settle such disputes between dealers.

Perhaps the last few years have just been a bad spell, bad luck as you might have it. Or perhaps the economy has made people edgy. Or perhaps our society has become so contentious that reasonable people began presenting unreasonable demands. Whatever the cause, the effect has been devastating.

Recently those who run the CZSG have been younger to middle-aged profession-

als. This represents a shift away from those nearing or past retirement age who have done such a splendid job in the past. Multiple demands exist on the time of these younger officers, and it can be very difficult to stop on a dime to handle yet another gripe. When complaints and requests are many and time is tight, something does not get done. Any individual situation can be handled, but the cumulative effect of all of them has been overwhelming. The greatest danger is that the young and enthusiastic worker becomes disenchanted and disengaged.

For all these problems, I have no easy answer. It is essential that younger members be encouraged to become involved, and that what they volunteer or are asked to do is consistent with their professional, family, and personal responsibilities. Experienced, older hands must continue to be involved (and to be patient with the inexperience of youth) for the stability, wisdom, experience, and patience they show in dealing with a problem. Their experience and ideas are just as important to the CZSG. Their participation is essential. Effecting useful cooperation between the new and the old has been a major focus of the President in recent years. And it detracts from the long-range planning and direction that is needed from that office.

I am hoping that reactivating the committees will allow the CZSG to spread the burden over a larger number of volunteers. And I mean it when I say that I will be expecting some tangible output from these committees and their chairs. But no matter what structure we use, the fact remains that we are all volunteers just trying to do the best we can.

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# Panama Lindbergh Proofs

(Continued from page 12)

According to *The Panama American*, \$1000 worth of Lindbergh stamps were sold within the first hour. By the end of the first day 49,000 2c stamps and 23,000 5c stamps had been sold by the Balboa Heights and Cristobal post offices. Some \$4000 worth of these stamps were sold in Panama during the first three hours as well.

The next day, January 10, 35,000 2c and 17,000 5c stamps were dispensed at Balboa Heights and 10,000 5c stamps at Cristobal. It was also announced that the Lindbergh stamps would remain on sale for 90 days at Balboa Heights unless recalled by Panama.

Because in the final production the typography left a little to be desired, the illegible wording on the 2c was enhanced at Mount Hope by a clear black 2-line overprint "HOMENAJE A LINDBERGH." Note that this overprint is not present on the proofs.

The only persistent variety on the 2c is a slash through the bottom of the "2" at position 2 of each 10-unit cliché, clearly visible in Fig. 6. The 5c also has a flaw, a tail or flag on the right hand "5" at position 6 of each 10-unit cliché, see Fig. 8. Since they were both printed in sheets of 100, the varieties are reproduced 10 times, each in its respective position of the cliché within the sheet.



Fig. 8. Winged "5".

The stamps were printed ungummed on Exchange Safety Paper. The 2c is red on salmon and appears ribbed vertically; the 5c is blue on blue-green appearing ribbed horizontally. Both have the Exchange Safety Paper logo watermarked several times in the sheet. The watermarked ribbing and logo show on Figs. 4 and 6. Perforation is a colorless roulette 7. The colored papers are very susceptible to fading from sunlight or water. Most used (soaked copies) of the 5c appear as almost white. The 2c is equally vulnerable.

Envelopes mailed in the Canal Zone with only the Panama stamps were marked "postage due." A few covers slipped through



Fig. 9. Canal Zone First Day.

the combination franking of both CZ and Panama Lindbergh stamps, so a few covers exist with CZ markings on the first day (Fig. 9). Generally, CZ postal clerks avoided cancelling the Panama stamps.

The usual first day markings are a CDS Panama [City] "LINDBERGH ARRIVES IN PANAMA," Fig. 10, and CDS Colon "THE NATIONAL POSTS HONOR LINDBERGH," Fig. 11.

I (DJL) recall the first time I saw Lindbergh proofs, probably only the first two for I noted that they were on a poor quality white paper, almost a newsprint. It was during a visit to Mr. Doyle at the Mount Hope Press in late 1928. Knowing of my interest in stamps, Doyle took me into his office, carefully making sure no one else was around, and opened his safe. He said he had something to show me that I might like to see. He was right!

It was the proof sheets of 10 in black of the two Lindbergh stamps. I do not

remember the endorsements of "CANCELLED" overprints, so the ones I saw could have been the first set noted above. I was unable to persuade him that they would look better in my collection than hidden in his safe. I never saw any of the proofs again until Helme's exhibit at WESTPEX about 1972. It is quite possible that the proofs shown here finally escaped from Doyle's safe, and it is also possible that there is a third set around. Unfortunately, I do not own any of them.

[Editor's Note: Thanks to Dr. James B. Helme for details of the provenance of the proofs. This article is also being submitted to COPACARTA, Journal of COPAPHIL, the Colombia/Panama Philatelic Study Group.]

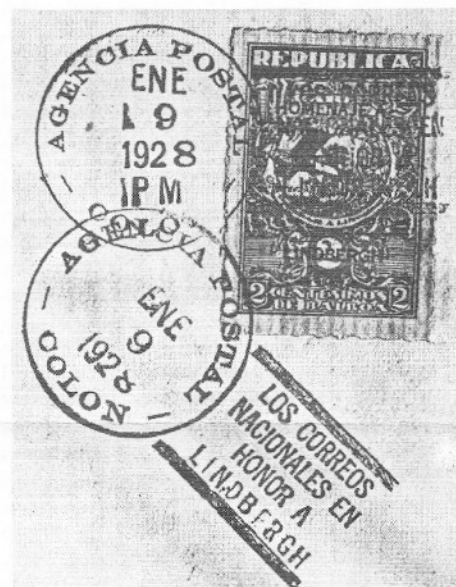


Fig. 11. Colon First Day.

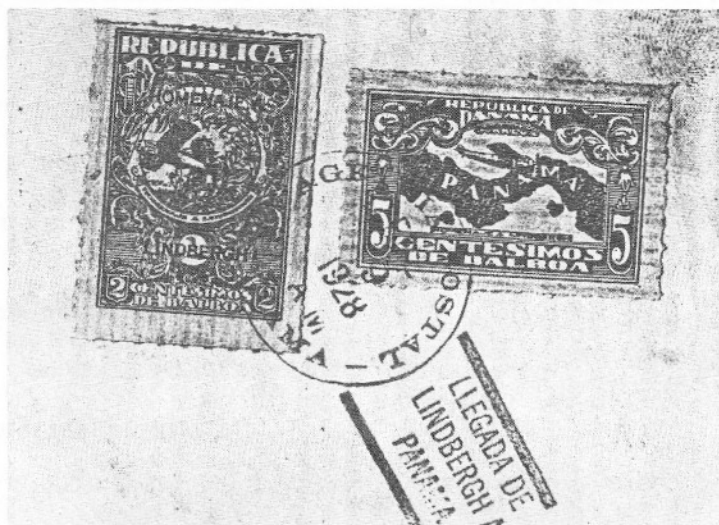


Fig. 10. Panama [City] First Day.



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### CZ #9 "CA NAL"

A spaced "A N" as "CA NAL" has been reported by Don Kuske. The variety occurs at Position 6 of the Second Setting of Scott #9. There is a 1/2mm space between the first A and N of CANAL; the length of CANAL is 16mm instead of the normal length of 15-1/2mm.

Also, Position 7 shows an abnormality of ZONE shifted 1/2mm to the left. Both varieties are visible in the illustration.

These varieties are not reported in *Canal Zone Stamps* and have not yet been verified by other examples. Please check your holdings of this Second Setting and let us know if the varieties are constant or only show on some sheets. We would appreciate good xeroxes sent to Don Kuske, Box 1692, Independence, MO 64055, or to the Editor.



CZ #9, 2nd Setting, Pos. 5-6-7, 15-16-17.



## Plass Sale

By Gary B. Weiss

The most important auction ever held of Canal Zone philatelic material took place in New York City on July 10, 1993 at the Ivy, Shreve & Mader Auction Galleries. The collection was put together by Dr. Gilbert N. Plass over many years and contained almost every known Canal Zone error and variety, including most of the unique rarities. The collection won a large gold medal at Interphil in 1976, the only time it was shown. It was the basis of numerous articles in *The Canal Zone Philatelist* as well as the book *Canal Zone Stamps* by Plass, Brewster, and Salz.

With the announcement of the sale, it became the most talked about topic among Possessions collectors. The beautifully produced catalog itself belongs on the shelf of all Canal Zone collectors and is already a collector's item. Study of the catalog produced much speculation about results of the auction. Some people expected record prices, while others felt that the market could not afford so much material and that prices would be low. Both groups may have been correct.

Viewing of the material took place at TEXPEX in Dallas a month before the sale and in New York for a few days prior to the sale. I began my viewing early on July 7 but in spite of a small turnout that day did not come close to seeing everything. Preparation for the sale included many hours with the catalog and much time trying to decide how much one could spend. The large lots were incredible and each contained material deserving individual presentation. Many unique minor (and some major) CZSG listed varieties appeared in these lots. In any other sale, they could have been highlighted items, but with 523 lots the sale would already take a full afternoon. It is difficult to imagine a single lot with ten first issue covers as well as many first issue stamps (including errors, varieties, and multiples), but that was only the first of many large lots. By the following day the viewing area had become crowded, and by the morning of the sale very crowded. Proper viewing to fully appreciate this collection would have required weeks.

Record high temperatures were set in New York, the afternoon of the sale, but the auction gallery remained cool until the start of bidding. There were generally about 40 in the room at all times, with people coming and going; perhaps 75 attended the sale. In addition to the usual New York auction agents, including my mother, and a good representation of dealers, there was an unusually large turnout of collectors. Also present were Gil Plass and his wife; he kept an excellent poker face during the action.

Bidding was slow but spirited. In most auctions, many lots sell to the book without competition. At this sale, there was bidding on every lot. Many lots opened low, had dozens of initial bids and bidders, and then developed into intense individual competitions. The first unique error, Scott No. 1c in a block of four, opened at \$7000 against a 1988 catalog value of \$6250, and after spirited bidding between two dealers sold for a record \$18,000 plus 10% commission. This was the highest price realized. All unique errors set new record prices (as expected as they had not been on the market for over 20 years); most went to dealers. It is impossible to tell at this time whether these were bargains or overpriced. It will be interesting to follow these items as they are resold.

All of the large lots sold for way over the estimates. The unusual materials, including proofs, essays, drawings, and varieties on cover, generally commanded high prices, with many collectors uncertain of their value. These lots split between collectors and dealer. Rare items appeared to sell well at over catalog, but the use of 1988 prices makes some of these realizations deceptive due to significant price increases in Scott. A detailed analysis of price, along with a listing of some prices realized will appear in a future auction column. Bargains were also to be had, mostly by dealers, as many collectors reserved their money to purchase needed, irreplaceable items rather than bargains. By the end of this session, over \$800,000 had been realized, and the collection had been dispersed into many hands. The general feeling after the session was more exhaustion than exhilaration.

After the sale, an impromptu meeting of the Canal Zone Study Group was held. I believe that this is the first post-auction meeting for the Group (numerous meetings have taken place before sales but these have not been sponsored by the Group). At the meeting, President Richard Bates presented Paul Kravitz his medal for exhibiting at ARIPEX earlier in the year, and George Stilwell received his service award. The meeting was brief as the second session of the auction was about to start. Members who were finished bidding enjoyed a picnic and more Canal Zone talk.

In the evening, other Possessions material (with the exception of AMG issues which were included with the foreign and not identified as to owner) was auctioned. Again record prices were realized, especially for Hawaii; and again, competition for material was fierce. Total realizations were over \$1,400,000. A collection of this depth may never be seen again.

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- #19, 19a\*, 8/50c Bistre Brown, Horizontal Pr. Lt stamp w/ZONE Antique, F, Tropical OG, '93 S.R. \$247.50 ..... Net \$225
- #19, 19 var\*, 8/50c Bistre Brown, Vert. Pr w/sheet margin at left. Top stamp with left "P.N.A.M.A." reading down and right "PANAMA" reading up, just fine by fine, Trop. OG, '93 S.R. \$175 ..... Net \$135
- #19, 19b\*, 8/50c Bistre Brown, Blk 4, UR stamp ZONE Antique, ExF, Trop. OG, '93 S.R. \$320 ..... Net \$250
- #20 var\*, 50c Brown, Blk 4, UR stamp "L" Antique, ExF, Mint OG, NH, '93 S.R. \$170+ ..... Net \$160
- #23c\*, 2c Red & Black, CANAL ZONE double, VF by superb cert. Trop. OG, perf flaw at L, '92 PSE Cert, '93 S.R. \$450 ..... Net \$350
- #32a\*, 2c Verm. & Black, Vert. Pr imperf horiz. Fine by VF, OG bit Trop, few short perfs UL, Horiz gum ridge at bottom, '92 PSE Cert notes "tropical OG, horiz. crease at bottom & minor perf faults UL corner", quite scarce, '93 S.R. \$900 ..... Net \$500
- #39e\*, 2c Verm. & Black, inverted ctr, about VF, full slightly Trop. OG, VHL, w/photo for Blk on '89 PF Cert, '93 S.R. \$800+ ..... Net \$650
- #46a\*, 1c Green & Black, CANAL ZONE reading down, F, OG, NH, '93 PSE Cert, '93 S.R. \$350 ..... Net \$250
- Same F-VF, Fresh OG ..... Net \$300
- #62a\*, 5c Blue, CANAL ZONE reading down, F, OG, '93 S.R. \$60, Net \$35; Same VF by Sup \$45; Same Superb ..... Net \$55
- #63a\*, 10c Violet, CANAL ZONE reading down, F-VF, slightly Trop. OG, NH, '93 S.R. \$100 ..... Net \$85
- #67a\*, 1c Green, ZONE CANAL reading down, F-VF, full fresh OG, '93 SR \$750 ..... Net \$500
- #71d\*, 1c Green, ZONE CANAL, F, fresh O.G., '93 S.R. \$450 ..... Net \$350
- #86c\*, 5c Blue, CANAL ZONE inverted, just F (touches) by F, full fresh OG, only 80 issued, '93 PSE Cert, '93 S.R. \$500+ ..... Net \$450
- #91c, 17c Black, ZONE CANAL, fine by Sup, OG, NH '93 S.R. \$200 ..... Net \$165
- Same Superb ..... Net \$250
- #J20c, 10c Rose, CANAL ZONE double, just F (touches at top) by ExF, full fresh OG, Lt H, '80 PF Cert, '93 S.R. \$400 ..... Net \$265

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## Winners

by Bradley A. Baker

STaMpsHOW 93, Houston, Texas, August 19-22, 1993, a Gold to LCDR Paul F. Ammons, "Canal Zone Second (First Definitive) Air Mail Issue". A vermeil to Alfred F. Kugel, "The Dawn of the American Empire, 1898-1918". The first two frames of this exhibit showed classic Canal Zone.